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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/803,283	SANGER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Basia Ridley <i>BR</i>	<b>Art Unit</b> 1764	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                   |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>122903</u> . |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No. <u>030901</u> | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                           |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                   | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance          |
|   | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT / COMMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Frank Molinaro on 29 December 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

Claim 9 has been cancelled.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is: Ruhl et al. (USP 5,567,398), Corrigan (USP 5,516,344) and Egglestone (USP 4,925,456). While the references disclose an apparatus for hydrogen generation comprising an inner, secondary reforming, vessel surrounded by a plurality of annular pre-reforming zones, the references do not disclose said inner vessel comprising a mixing zone disposed on the oxidation zone and said oxidation zone disposed on the secondary reforming zone. Further the references do not disclose said pre-reforming zones comprising a core gas conduit having catalytic combustion zone being adjacent to terminal end of said core gas conduit. Additionally the references do not disclose the a sealed effluent plenum enclosing each pre-reforming zone and the inner vessel and, in turn, being enclosed by an air preheating zone, wherein said inner vessel comprises a layer of insulation disposed surrounding its sides. Therefore an ordinary artisan would have not been motivated to construct the apparatus for

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generation of hydrogen having specific arrangement of various reaction and heating zones and feedstock and product stream manifolds and plenums, as recited in instant claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

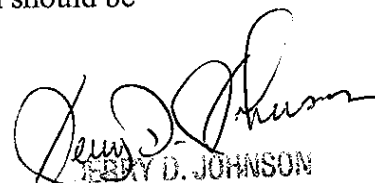
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Basia Ridley, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1453. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola, can be reached on (571) 272-1444.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

BR  
Basia Ridley  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1764

  
JERRY D. JOHNSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1100

BR  
December 30, 2003